



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,  
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist  
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008

### **6 indicted for distributing methamphetamine in the Twin Cities**

Drug-related prosecutions continue to be a priority of the federal government, and several people were indicted this week by grand juries on drug-related charges.

In the first indictment, a Minneapolis man and a woman from Washington state were each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. Baltasar Diaz-Morfin, 46, and Yulma Yesenia Suarez-Nunez, 31, Pasco, Wash., were each charged Aug. 11 in Minneapolis.

Their indictment alleges that from January 2008 through July 24, 2008, they knowingly and intentionally conspired with each other and others to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 500 or more grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, the highly addictive and dangerous drug. It also alleges that from July 14 through July 24, they did knowingly and unlawfully possess a .380-caliber handgun and a .45-caliber handgun in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, authorities learned about the defendants in May 2008. Police observed the defendants selling methamphetamine during several arranged "controlled purchases" in May and July.

On July 24, police arranged another "controlled purchase" of approximately 3 pounds of methamphetamine, and arrested Diaz-Morfin and Suarez-Nunez, who had attempted to flee police. Authorities executed a search warrant at Diaz-Morfin's residence and discovered a hidden room in the apartment, which contained approximately 1 ½ pounds of methamphetamine. Officers also recovered a loaded .45-caliber handgun and a loaded .38-caliber handgun.

If convicted, Diaz-Morfin and Suarez-Nunez each face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison on both counts. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the DEA and the Minneapolis Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Steven L. Schleicher.

In the second, unrelated indictment, three men and one woman were each charged with one

count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Nino Garcia Huerta, 29, St. Paul, Adalberto Reyes-Bravo, 30, Minneapolis, Sebastian Mercado-Montano, 36, Minneapolis, and Gaudalupe Galindo-Mojica, 46, Sanger, Calif., were charged Aug. 12 in Minneapolis.

Their indictment alleges that from June 5, 2008, to July 10, 2008, they did knowingly and intentionally conspire to distribute 50 or more grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

According to a DEA affidavit, the Minneapolis Police Department began investigating Huerta in June, and conducted an arranged “controlled purchase” from Huerta on June 5. During a second “controlled purchase” on June 16, police observed Reyes-Bravo delivering something to Huerta prior to the purchase.

On July 10, officers arranged another “controlled purchase” involving 246 grams of methamphetamine, and conducted surveillance on a Minneapolis residence. Police observed Huerta receive money and make a telephone call. After Huerta’s call, the officers who were observing the residence saw Reyes-Bravo, Mercado-Montano and Galindo-Mojica enter and exit the apartment. Then Reyes-Bravo and Galindo-Mojica entered two vehicles and drove to meet Huerta. All three were arrested after police witnessed Galindo-Mojica giving Huerta a clear plastic baggie.

Police executed a search warrant of the residence, and arrested Mercado-Montano after he attempted to flee officers by jumping off the second-floor balcony. Authorities recovered approximately 41 grams of methamphetamine, \$213,000, a notebook containing drug notes, various packaging materials and a loaded Smith and Wesson .9-millimeter, semi-automatic handgun.

If convicted, all four defendants each face a potential maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minneapolis Police Department, the DEA and the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office’s Narcotics Unit, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher R. Wolfe.

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.